

Message Text

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SUBJ: UAW PROPOSES QUOTAS ON AUTO IMPORTS

1. IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MARCH 22, LEONARD WOODCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED AUTO
WORKERS (UAW), ASKED CONGRESS TO IMPOSE TEMPORARY QUOTAS
ON AUTO IMPORTS. HE RECOMMENDED THAT UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30,
1975, THE IMPORTS BE LIMITED TO "THE AVERAGE PERCENT SHARE
OF THE MARKET OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS."

2. PURPOSE OF THE QUOTAS, WOODCOCK SAID, IS "TO MITIGATE
THE ALL-TOO-LIKELY ECONOMIC DISASTER OUR INDUSTRY IS
FACING." HE ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN 100,000 AUTO WORKERS
ARE INDEFINITELY UNEMPLOYED WITH TENS OF THOUSANDS MORE ON
INTERMITTENT LAYOFFS BECAUSE OF THE SHIFT OF CONSUMER
DEMAND TO SMALL CARS. IMPORTS, HE SAID, MIGHT "SEIZE" 30
PERCENT OF THE U.S. MARKET (VS. 15.5 PERCENT IN 1973).

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3. WOODCOCK'S TESTIMONY COMES AS A RESULT OF A POLICY
STATEMENT ADOPTED BY THE UAW EXECUTIVE BOARD ON JAN. 30.

IN THAT STATEMENT, THE UAW SAID THE QUOTAS MUST ALSO APPLY TO "CAPTIVE" IMPORTED VEHICLES MANUFACTURED ABROAD BY U.S. COMPANIES.

4. SINCE THE PROPOSED QUOTAS WOULD HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON JAPAN, HERMAN REBHAN, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR OF THE

UAW, TELEPHONED OFFICIALS OF THE JAPANESE AUTO WORKERS UNION ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO TO ALERT THEM TO WOODCOCK'S UPCOMING TESTIMONY. CONFIRMING A NEWS STORY THAT APPEARED IN THE MAR. 20 JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, REBHAN SAID THE UAW HAS SUGGESTED TO THE JAPANESE THAT THEY ADOPT VOLUNTARY CURBS ON THEIR AUTO EXPORTS TO STAVE OFF A LEGISLATED QUOTA. REBHAN SAID HE HAS MADE SIMILAR POINTS WITH GERMAN UNION LEADERS.

5. REBHAN WILL LEAVE FOR TOKYO MARCH 28 TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT WITH ICHIRO SHIOJI, PRESIDENT OF THE JAPANESE AUTO UNION. KISSINGER UNQUOTE RUSH

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